



March 1, 2005

Massachusetts man pleads guilty to cocaine trafficking

Ricardo Matos, 32, of Plainville, Massachusetts, has pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking, admitting that he intended to sell 141 grams of cocaine that state police detectives, working with a federal drug task force, seized from his car in November. Detectives also seized nearly two kilograms of cocaine from Matos' apartment in Plainville.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Matos entered on February 25 before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres in U.S. District Court, Providence. Matos, who goes by several names, including Reinaldo Villalobos-Lopez, Miguel Alberto Asmar Diaz, and Ricardo Rios, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for June 20.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on November 19, state police detectives working with the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force** stopped a vehicle that Matos was driving on Dartmouth Street in Providence and arrested Matos on an outstanding Providence Superior Court warrant. Detectives subsequently seized 140 grams of cocaine that was hidden behind an ashtray in the vehicle. From Matos' apartment at 71-73 Messenger Street, Plainville, detectives seized 1,854 grams of cocaine, drug-trafficking materials, and \$2,090 in cash.

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Matos pleaded guilty to one count of possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. The maximum penalty is 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine.

The **HIDTA Task Force**, which is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**, investigated the case. **Plainville Police** provided assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly represented the government at the plea hearing.

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